

# The Overton Oracle

Volume 16. Issue 11

November 2014

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



## The Flint Street Nativity

Overton Amateur Dramatic Society's next production, The Flint Street Nativity, takes place on 21st and 22nd November in the Village Hall, doors open at 7.00, curtain up at 7.30pm. Tickets are available on the door. It is written by Tim Firth, the author of Calendar Girls.

A primary school class is preparing to put on their Nativity play under the eagle eye of the feared Miss Horrocks. As the old story unfolds, and as each child reveals something about their home life, it is both hilariously funny and poignantly sad. Meeting the parents afterwards gives further insight into the little performers' backgrounds. Come along to find the 'twist in the tale' of who plays the parts. The story is based on real events, collected over a period of ten years from members of Tim Firth's family and friends who were teachers.



## Remembrance Sunday



Remembrance Sunday this year will take place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, with the Overton Branch of the Royal British Legion taking part along with the Brownies, Scout Group and St Mary's school. Everyone will assemble in front of the refurbished War Memorial just before 11.00am. The Remembrance Service will continue in St Mary's Church.

The ladies section of the Overton branch closed some years ago but the men's branch has continued to meet and for some time now has welcomed lady members into their ranks and are hoping that lady members will also parade with them on Remembrance Sunday.

## Made and found

Overton's newest shop opened for business on October 24. Made & Found Collective is a new venture run by 4 women, which brings together artists and artisans, makers and finders from the local area and further afield. Selling a beautiful and eclectic range of homewares and art, jewellery and cards, toys and upcycled furniture, as well the Autentico range of environmentally-friendly (and easy-to-use) chalk paints, Made & Found is a great place to find a unique gift, an original piece of art for your home or simply something beautiful.

Artists, sculptors, photographers, ceramicists, woodworkers and textile artists will all sell their work through Made & Found. The shop will also host workshops on a regular basis, run by local artists and artisans. Anyone interested in running a workshop or selling their products through the Made & Found Collective should email the team at [madeandfoundcollective@gmail.com](mailto:madeandfoundcollective@gmail.com). There is also a website at [www.madeandfoundcollective.co.uk](http://www.madeandfoundcollective.co.uk).

Made and Found Collective is located at 7 Pen-y-Llan Street, next door to Woodlands Café and opposite the library.

There is plenty of parking in the car park directly behind the shop. It is open Monday – Saturday 10am-4pm.

more photos on page 6



## New Oracle Website

The Overton Oracle is launching its own website. Each months Oracle will be on line in colour and there will be space for extra photos, and up-to-date "Whats On" in the village.

The new address is

[overtonoracle.com](http://overtonoracle.com)

Make sure you check it out



## Musings from the Manse

by Rev'd Phillip Poole



Dear friends,

Just a few words to introduce myself. I'm Phil Poole, the new minister at the Methodist Church in Overton, and I'm looking forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks and months.

My wife Lisa is also a Methodist minister and we live in Llangollen, having moved here from Nottingham in August. We're already starting to feel at home and we're certainly learning to appreciate the beautiful countryside and the friendly demeanour of the people hereabouts.

We recognise that these are difficult times for the church everywhere, and that we need to change the way we do things if we are to get the message of God's love across to people in a way that they can properly relate to and understand. So look out for some new initiatives coming from the Methodist church in the village and as we work together with our friends at St Mary's and the Church of Our Lady and the Welsh Martyrs.

Meanwhile, are you aware that each week we pray for people in different parts of the community? We believe that prayer changes things and that God is ever eager to help us. If you have any prayer requests, please pass them on to myself or one of the other members at Overton Methodist Church and we will gladly include you in our prayers.

Best wishes, and love in Jesus,  
Phil Poole

## Christmas Party

The village Senior Citizens Christmas Party will take place on Tuesday December 2nd 2014 in the Village Hall from 3.30pm. Currently the invitations are being written, and will be sent out during the first week of November.



Every effort is made not to miss anyone out, but should that happen, please contact June Owen on 01978 710944

## Thank you

St Mary's Church would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who supported the Coffee & Chat mornings during July and August. The sum of £875.84 was raised for Nightingale House Hospice

## Wanted

Wanted clean jam jars with lids - will collect.  
Tel: 07768 268050

## Country Beat

by PCSO Phil Jones



It's info time on bike security

The vast majority of bicycle thefts are opportunist thefts. It only takes a few seconds for the opportunist to take a bike which is not secured.

There are a number of bikes stolen each year from within peoples own properties, either from sheds or garages.

**Follow our simple crime prevention tips to help keep your bicycle safe from thieves**

**When you are out and about**

- Get a good quality bike lock – solid 'D' locks offer good protection.
- Lock it or lose it – even if you just pop to the shops for two minutes, many thefts are opportunistic.
- Always lock your bike to an immovable object. Don't just lock the frame to the wheel.
- Leave your bike in a well-lit area where it can easily be seen by others.
- Remove anything that can't be secured – such as lamps and pumps.

**Register**

- Permanently mark your bike using a police preferred product.
- Register your bike with BikeRegister website for free. [www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com)
- Take out insurance on your bike and be sure to cover for thefts away from home. Take a photo of your bike and write a clear description of it for your own records.
- Mark your bike – contact a member of your local Neighbourhood Policing Team for further advice.

**Securing your bike whilst at home**

- If you store your bike in a shed or garage, fit a ground or wall anchor and lock your bike to it.
- Lock valuables together to prevent them being easily removed.

Thank you  
SCCH / PCSO 2858 Phil Jones

Police Community Support Officer  
Covering area's Overton, Penley, Hanmer, Bettisfield & Horseman's Green.

**Tel: 01978 348425 or 07854 389056**  
**[philip.w.jones@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:philip.w.jones@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)**

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Lydia Evison from all the family on her recent achievement in gymnastics . Lydia and her partner Katie came first in Grade 1 w.p. each receiving a medal .

The Walker Cup competition was well attended and the competitors were a credit to the hard work of their trainers and staff at Abbey Road Gymnastics Club.

## Playcentre News

Hello to everybody. First I would like to thank Angie Atkins for all that she has done as Chair for the Play Centre and for all her encouragement to me to follow her as Chair. We are a new committee, who only hope to aspire to be as successful as the former team. They have all done a wonderful job, and we are fully committed to continue to support our fabulous community play centre. We would like to give a big thank you to Mick and Karen at the Corner Shop, who have very kindly chosen us as their charity to donate their carrier bag money. Amount raised to be confirmed.

We are on the countdown to Christmas and we have lots planned to take place over the next couple of months! First we are doing a bag collection for Tenovus, look out for your bag being dropped at your door, with dates on for collection at your own door step! We have a Halloween party on Saturday Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 3-5pm at the Play centre, there will be a disco, crafts, food, party games and a prize for the best fancy dress costume.

November 22<sup>nd</sup> is your chance to pick up something for Christmas, as you wander through the stalls at our Christmas Fair at the Village Hall. 11am to 3pm in the Village Hall, it will be £1.50 entry fee but will include a hot drink and yummy mince pie!

Then its eyes down for our Christmas bingo! Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm, and we will have some wonderful prizes up for grabs! Finally I would like to say thank to all that support our play centre, it really is very much appreciated.

*Sarah Evans*

## New Messy Church

The theme for our October Messy Church was 'Harvest' – again action songs, craft – cheerio bracelets, apple dunking, plant a bulb, food prints; food – baked potato minced sauce followed by apple crumble; and of course a short thanksgiving service. Our average attendance over the 2 sessions we've held so far has been about 40 including children and adults.

Our theme for our next session on Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup> is 'Light', again in the Scout Hut 3-5 pm. All welcome – please note bring your children in clothes you don't mind them getting messy in!! Messy Church is for all the family so all children need to be accompanied by an adult.

## Lunch Club



The Overton Lunch Club is on **Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup>** at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be Beef Stew and Dumplings followed by Fruit Crumble and custard. To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

# Kids Kolumn

by Kate Jenkinson,  
Robyn Rehbock and  
Charley Middleton



**'Remember, remember**

*the fifth of November*

*Gunpowder, treason & plot.*

*I see no reason, why gunpowder treason*

**Should ever be forgot.'**

**Why not make some Chocolate Sparkler Biscuits for Bonfire Night!!**

### Ingredients

Chocolate finger biscuits

Small bowl of hot water

Small bowl of sugar strands  
(hundreds and thousands)

Greaseproof paper



### Method



Dip one end of a biscuit into the hot water and then into the sugar strands.

Place on greaseproof paper and leave to set.

Simple, quick you will kids love them!

### Try this Bonfire Night Word Search

Bonfire  
Celebration  
Display  
Fireworks  
Gunpowder  
Guy  
Parliament  
Rockets  
Safety  
Sparklers  
Treason



1. Birds
2. Kittens
3. Flowers
4. Landscapes
5. Rainbows
6. Butterflies
7. Insects
8. Sea shells
9. Bridges
10. Sunsets

I love looking at stuff outdoors!

These are my top 10 things to look at. Look at them for 3 minutes, then close the Oracle and try to list them all!

See how many you can get.





Your Letters...

*Dear Editor,*

I write in response to Mrs Russ Latham's letter regarding Knolton Farmhouse Cheese Ltd obtaining planning permission for their drying plant. My letter is not about the pros and cons of the issue; the decision has been made. The issue that concerns me is the derogatory and ill-informed comment about the role of Overton Community Council in the process. I am not a member of the Council and my comments are obviously my own.

It is the responsibility of the Community Council to review local planning applications and make a recommendation to the planning authority, Wrexham CBC, which in turn makes the decision. In coming to a decision on its recommendation the Community Council's Planning Committee considers all comments made regarding an application, be they supportive or objections. Additionally members of the community have the right to speak at Council or Committee meetings. Clearly the Council can only consider the comments that are put before it. Having previously served on the Council I can say that in my experience the Council carries out this role in a non-partisan, transparent and honest manner and always strives to be fair to all parties involved.

We live in a democratic society which is based on diversity of opinion and the right to freely express these opinions within the law. Most issues divide opinion in some way and the political process seeks to resolve differences in a peaceful manner. At a local level the planning process, and the role of the public bodies involved in it, including the Community Council, conforms to such principles.

Finally, I find Mrs Latham's suggestion that those local people who dislike the view of the new structure should move away from the area arrogant in the extreme. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century we're living in, not a 15<sup>th</sup> century feudal society. The village is no individual's personal fiefdom. We are all entitled to our opinions and to express them through the channels provided for that purpose.

*Name and address supplied**Dear Editor,*

I have read with interest the articles about Knolton Farm and the struggle they have had with the council to get the factory completed. I lived in Overton for many years until I joined the Royal Navy. My mother Marie Haynes worked on the farm for years and I spent a lot of my childhood on the farm growing up with Jonathon. It did not surprise me that Jonathon and Russ built the factory as they were always looking forward. Due to this they have created jobs for many local people. I find it very frustrating that some people have opposed the factory, and I suspect they are not born and bred Overtonians. Have the people who opposed the project come forward or are they just trying to make mischief out of jealousy? Will the Oracle name names?

*Regards, Pip*

## Bringing back memories

I watched with interest today as the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship RFA Argus left for West Africa, with Royal Marine and Fleet Air Arm contingents to support the on-going fight against the Ebola virus. It brought back memories of my own rather unexpected deployment to West Africa almost 25 years ago. In May 1990 I had flown out to Majorca to join the Fleet Tanker and helicopter carrier RFA Tidespring which was coming back from a six month trip. We expected to call at Gibraltar then spend a few months back in Portsmouth. A comfortable time alongside in the UK was anticipated, which suited me fine. As a ship's Communications Officer life doesn't get easier than that. As we approached Gibraltar we were diverted, without stopping, down to West Africa. A bloody civil war had erupted in Liberia and we were directed to standby off the coast to evacuate the Embassy and any UK citizens who might be able to take refuge there. We were joined by the Frigate Broadsword and some very business like looking troops from the Special Boat Service. My memory of the SBS is that they were all quite small wiry types, they spoke very little and seemed to unpack, check and repack their kit twice daily whilst eagerly awaiting the opportunity to go ashore to rescue the ambassador's daughter. Also joining us was an enormous contingent of US Marines aboard the largest helicopter assault ship I had ever seen.

We then spent almost three months trundling up and down a four mile "box" in the sea. The highlight of each watch was the slow turn. Anyone who has ever been in that part of the world will know that the weather is dull, sticky and thoroughly depressing. After a week we were bored. After a fortnight we had had enough. Two months in and having run out of tooth paste, fresh milk and vegetables we were near suicidal. What no one ever tells you about the military is the "hurry up and wait" reality of it all. My 24th birthday was spent in the doldrums in both senses of the word. There was no email in those days and post simply couldn't get in or out. My previous trip island hopping in the tropical wonderland of the Caribbean seemed a distant unreal memory. The highlight of our trip was a brief afternoon in the "stable" country of Sierra Leone next door. Visiting the capital, Freetown, was a culture shock to us all. Sadly soon after we left, that country too descended into a frightful civil war. Our deployment ended uneventfully. The US forces eventually evacuated all the UK citizens and we trundled home a few months later, our military never having received the order to "go in". Whilst there is no war on today, the deployment of our military to West Africa today involves very real and perhaps worse dangers and I am sure we all wish them well. Looking at all the eager fresh young faces laying out their kit out and boarding the ship, as Remembrance Day approaches, focuses the mind.

*John Buttress Third Officer RFA (retd)*

## F l o w e r t r a i l f r o m E s s e x t o O v e r t o n

Grace Sidwell recently enjoyed a special floral birthday celebration, arranged by her daughter Laura, with granddaughter Harriett as her little helper. Three of her friends from Overton, Micki Blair, Jayne Cornes and Margaret Evison joined her at the Thundersley Gardening and Floral Art Club in Essex which Grace was once a member of and re-visits each year.



The audience were treated to fantastic displays as they were taken on a floral journey of places where Grace had lived - from her birthplace in Norfolk with its windmills, through to Essex and the gardening club and its seaside connections. Grace's hobby (in addition to gardening and flowers) is knitting and this was not forgotten as there were rainbow roses spilling through balls of wool made of grasses. The flower trail culminated in Wales depicted by a waterfall splashing from a slate mine with blue delphiniums and phalenopsis cascading down.

To give a flavour of Wales the Essex audience were given Bara Brith and Welsh cakes from Overton Corner Shop as part of their afternoon tea. A great weekend for all of us and a nostalgic floral trail from Norfolk through Essex and back to Wales for Grace. *(photo in colour in the online edition)*



### F i r s t B e e r F e s t i v a l

Overton's Inaugural Beer Festival on October 3<sup>rd</sup> was attended by 118 people who were greeted at the door by Laurence Chalk and Geoff Mason who gave them a ticket for a free half pint of beer and an Overton sausage in a roll . Both these items were included in the entry price.

Dave and Shirley Samuels served the 5 casks of beer, all in good condition, and some ciders. Roy Richards opened the Recreational Club bar for people who preferred wine, lager or soft drinks.

Clr. Peter Lynch and his daughter Holly worked hard in the kitchen serving the Overton Sausages on bread rolls and they were assisted by Katrina Chalk, Clerk to the Council and Clr. Lesley Pugh.

The hall was decked out in beautiful bunting kindly leant to us by Clr .Richard Hewitt and Ruabon based 'Bandjack' entertained everybody with their lively music.

Overton Twinning Association had a table in the hall . Georgina Mason, Catherine Starkey and Sheila Miller sold plates of cheeses and biscuits, and plates of cakes to raise money for their Association.

Everybody left quietly at midnight and the evening was a great success. We raised £615 for the village



playing field. Thanks to everyone who helped and who attended .

*Clr Pene Cole*

### F r i e n d s o f S t . M a r y ' s

The Friends of St Mary's recently held a small party in the Church when guests listened to a brief talk on the work that has been completed to the fabric of the Church and what was in prospect for the future.

In the last year there were remarkably low maintenance costs but this situation is not likely to be repeated because as well as more normal general maintenance costs, major capital improvements are being discussed including a toilet and kitchen facilities. It is hoped that considerable grants will be available for the toilet and kitchen facilities for this project but even so it will need a considerable sum added from church funds. PCC have ringfenced a reserve of funds for when there is an absolute need to preserve the fabric of the Church such as the roof.

A quinquennial survey was undertaken in 2011 and known defects over the next 5 years are expected to be costly plus unexpected major works at some time are inevitable with the age of this historic building. A reserve is always necessary in order to qualify for matching grants on items of heavy expenditure.

The Friends of St Mary's had a very good fundraising year but it remains a priority that the initiative should continue to ensure the future survival of the church, with the community continuing to act together to keep the building in good condition. Many churches have closed down because they have not managed to balance their books.

It is our responsibility and nobody else's, to hand on our heritage and the oldest building in our village with its timeless Christian message to the next generation.

Contributions are really so very much appreciated.



## Community Council News



Before

You may have noticed that the three large stumps (and roots) in the Millennium Meadow have disappeared!! After many months of trying to find a contractor (with the assistance of Ian Atkinson from All Things Trees) who was able to carry out the work the stumps were buried over a weekend.



After

Whilst the area where the stumps were situated is now level, over the winter the soil will settle which may cause the area to become uneven with the possibility of some holes may develop. Overton Community Council recommends that walkers take additional care when walking through the Millennium Meadow and remain on the path where possible.

You may have noticed the new additional play equipment in the Playingfield - Nesting Swing, 4M Activity Net, Wooden Train with an engine and 2 carriages HAS ARRIVED. As you will have seen in previous editions of the Oracle and posters around the village - the new additional pieces of equipment which have been funded from Overton Community Councils successful WREN grant and community fundraising. Thank you to everyone who has got involved and for your continued and ongoing support.



## Cricket Club News

From the first to the final game, Overton were pushing a top table finish this year. Eventually after a fine win at Harcourt on the last day of the 2014 season, Overton finished an excellent third in the table. Throughout the season there were fine performances in both bowling and batting with averages comparing to the very best in the Shropshire League. However the team, as a whole, played well in both home and away fixtures. Shropshire is a beautiful county to travel in and we play at some major town grounds together with very rural and picturesque grounds.



The grounds and facilities at Overton stack up well; with very good facilities and a ground and wicket which has a lot of time and effort put into by players and members. We will soon be holding an awards evening for achievement throughout the year – we are particularly proud of Matthew Lawrenson this year who has been awarded the Shropshire County Cricket League Player of the Year for Division Four and has also gained the award for best Batting Achievement gained in the month of August for the whole Shropshire League ~ Congratulations Matthew.

## Stunning opening night

What a privilege it was to be in the audience at the Maelor School Hall last Wednesday evening. Cantorion Colin Jones, the renowned Male Voice Choir, got the 46<sup>th</sup> Season of the Maelor Music Society off to a spine-tingling start. They were in fine voice and the well-chosen programme included Gospel songs, songs from the shows, drinking songs from Italy and Germany and several hauntingly evocative Welsh hymns and songs, including two composed by the dynamic conductor Aled Wyn Edwards.

The Music Society, based at the Maelor School, puts on five concerts throughout the year, starting in October. The next is a piano recital by Robin Zebaida and takes place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 adults; no charge for children. For further details of the whole programme for the 2014-15 Season, go to the Maelor School website, click on Community.

## More Made and Found

More pictures of Overton's latest shop - 'Made and Found'



**WHAT'S ON****November Diary for St Mary's Services**

- Sunday November 2nd** 10.00 Family Village Praise  
**Sunday November 9th** 10:45am Remembrance Day Service  
 3.00pm Messy Church in Scout Hut  
**Sunday November 16th** 10.00am Family Communion  
**Sunday November 23rd** 11.30am Holy Communion  
**Sunday November 30th** 10.00am Group Eucharist in Erbistock

**November Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel**

- Sunday November 2nd** 6.30pm Rev Phillip Poole  
**Sunday November 9th** 6.30pm Rev Wigley, Holy Communion  
**Sunday November 16th** 6.30pm Rev Richard Sharples  
**Sunday November 23rd** 11.00am All Age Worship. Rev Poole  
**Sunday November 30th** 6.30pm Circuit Service

**Fri Oct 31st to Mon Nov 3rd** 10.30am-1.00pm & 2 -4.30pm  
 Needlecraft Exhibition in Chapel Schoolroom

**Saturday November 1st** 10.30am-12.30pm St Mary's Church  
 Michaelmas Fair & Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

**Saturday November 1st** 3-5pm Halloween party at Overton  
 Playcentre. Prize for the spookiest costume

**Thursday November 6th** 12-7pm Hanmer Autumn Fayre at  
 Hanmer Church. Free Entry

**Thursday November 6th** 10.30-2.30pm Penley Rainbow Lunch  
 & Learn - Making Christmas boxes and packages

**Sunday November 9th** 3.00pm The next Messy Church at the  
 Scout Hut where the theme will be 'Light.'

**Tuesday November 11th** 10.00am Overton British Legion  
 meeting for coffee at Woodlands Deli followed by  
 2 minute silence at the Village Cenotaph

**Tuesday November 11th** 7.30pm Overton Community Council  
 meeting in Parish Room. Members of the public  
 wishing to speak can do so 7.20-7.30pm.

**Wednesday November 12th** 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at  
 The White Horse. Booking required.

**Wednesday November 19th** 7.30pm Maelor Music Society at  
 the Maelor School hall

**Thursday November 20th** 7.30pm Overton WI Annual Meeting  
 in the Parish Room. Speaker: Heather Dulson -  
 County Advisor. Competition: a postcard

**Friday November 21st** Live Music at the White Horse

**Fri. & Sat. November 21st & 22nd** 7.30pm Overton Amateur  
 Dramatic Society present 'The Flint Street Nativity' at  
 the Village Hall

**Saturday November 22nd** 11.00am-3.00pm Overton  
 Playcentre Christmas Fair at the Village Hall

**Tuesday November 25th** 7.30pm Overton Royal British Legion  
 Annual General Meeting in the Parish Room

**Saturday November 29th** 2pm Christmas Fair at Overton  
 Methodist Chapel

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Happy November Birthdays** to George Buttress, Lydia Evison, Pearl Edwards, Hugo Hunter, Edward Pugh, Pauline Dodd, Phil Edwards, Dave Smith, Mike Done, Heather Davies, Lucy Roberts, Margaret Mawdsley, Rob Netzband-Piggott, Gerald Williams, Peter Rosselli and Anita Brown.



**Congratulations** to Heather on your 21st birthday. Love from Mum, Dad and Lesley XX

**Sincere condolences** to the family & friends of Joan Price of Salop Road who has passed away aged 90  
**Sincere condolences** to the family & friends of James Riddell

**Congratulations**

Huge congratulations to Jack & Sarah Fell-Groom (néé Aird) who were married at St Marys Church, followed by a reception at Rossett Hall Hotel on 13th September. It was a perfect day and we hope you have a long and happy life together.

All our love, Jade, Joshua & Benji xxx



Overton Methodist Chapel

Christmas Fair

Saturday November 29th at 2pm

**For sale****PLEASE REMEMBER**

**Copy deadline 20th of the previous month. Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment**

**THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS**

**Leave your contributions, & announcements at the Corner Shop.**

**Your Oracle Team - Chairman & Advertising David Burton; Treasurer Rob Netzband-Piggott; Distribution Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke, Euan Stevenson & Gwynneth Austin**

**Editor - Jill Burton. Tel 710631 or e-mail**

All articles and advertisements in the Overton Oracle are published in good faith and without prejudice.

Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published.

The Oracle is available on the internet. Please be mindful that personal details submitted will be available to a wider audience.

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